IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): ~~A composition for~~ percutaneous administration comprising ~~the following components (A) and (B)~~:

(A) a mixture of polymers ~~which forms~~ forming a surface-segregated film, said polymers consisting of (A-1) a hydrophobic polymer which has a surface tension of 10 to 45 mN/m, takes solid form at normal temperature and normal pressure, and is soluble or dispersible in water and/or a lower alcohol solution, and (A-2) a hydrophilic polymer which has a surface tension of 30 to 70 N/m; ~~and~~

(B) ~~an~~ a hydrophilic active ingredient selected from the group consisting of plant extracts, animal extracts, guanidine derivatives, catecholamines, amino acids, vitamins, and hormones; and

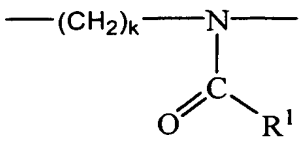
(C) water and/or a lower alcohol.

2. – 3. (Canceled):

4. (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the component ~~(A) is a combination of~~ (A-1) is a silicone polymer or a polymer having a fluorinated carbon chain ~~and a hydrophilic polymer~~.

5. (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~silicone~~ hydrophobic polymer (A-1) is an oxazoline-modified organopolysiloxane ~~having~~ comprising:

an organopolysiloxane segment (a) and a poly(N-acylalkyleneimine) segment (b) which is bonded to the segment (a) at the end or side chain in the molecule thereof via a hetero-atom-containing alkylene group and consists of repeating units represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

(~~wherein~~ wherein, R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-22} alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group, and k stands for 2 or ~~3)~~ 3, wherein the weight average molecular weight ranges from 50000 to 500000 and a weight ratio of segment (a) to segment (b) ranges from 98:2 to 40:60; and

said oxazoline-modified organopolysiloxane takes solid form at normal temperature and normal pressure, and is soluble or dispersible in water and/or a lower alcohol solution.

6. (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and pullulan.

7. (New) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrophobic polymer (A-1) to the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) ranges from 5:95 to 95:5.

8. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrophobic polymer (A-1) to the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) ranges from 15:85 to 85:15.

9. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophobic polymer (A-1) in the composition ranges from 0.001 to 30 wt%.

10. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophobic polymer (A-1) in the composition ranges from 0.005 to 20 wt%.

11. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophobic polymer (A-1) in the composition ranges from 0.01 to 10 wt%.

12. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight-average molecular weight of the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) ranges from 4000 to 500,000.

13. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight-average molecular weight of the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) ranges from 10,000 to 500,000.

14. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) in the composition ranges from 0.001 to 30 wt%.

15. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) in the composition ranges from 0.005 to 20 wt%.

16. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophilic polymer (A-2) in the composition ranges from 0.01 to 10 wt%.

17. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophilic active ingredient in the composition ranges from 0.00001 to 30 wt%.

18. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrophilic active ingredient in the composition ranges from 0.0001 to 20 wt%.

19. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the water and/or a lower alcohol has a boiling point less than 210°C.

20. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the water and/or a lower alcohol has a boiling point ranging from 40 to 110°C.

21. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the water and/or a lower alcohol in the composition ranges from 30 to 98 wt%.

22. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the water and/or a lower alcohol in the composition ranges from 50 to 95 wt%.

23. (New): A method for accelerating the percutaneous absorption of a hydrophilic active ingredient, which comprises applying the composition described in Claim 1 to the skin of a subject in need thereof.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended.

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

Claims 7-23 have been added.

Support for the amendment of Claims 1 and 4-6 and new Claim 23 can be found in Claims 1-6, as originally filed, and the specification at pages 3-22. Support for new Claims 7 and 8 can be found, e.g., on page 6, lines 1-20, of the specification. Support of new Claims 9-11 can be found on page 8, lines 21-25, of the specification. Support for new Claims 12-16 can be found on page 9, line 24, to page 10, line 10, of the specification. Support for new Claims 17 and 18 can be found on page 13, lines 21-24, of the specification. Support for new Claims 19-22 can be found on page 14, lines 9-15, of the specification.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.